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Week Ending September 24, 2000

COTTON HARVEST IN HIGH GEAR

Tennessee cotton farmers took advantage of last week’s dry conditions and harvested an additional 15 percent of the State’s acreage before rain showers moved in over the weekend. Growers reported that yields have been fairly good thus far, but they anticipate lower yields once they move into late planted fields. Producers are now hoping for more dry weather this week. A little less than one-fourth of the State’s corn acreage remains to be harvested, with many West Tennessee growers finished. Yields have been highly variable around the State, but many farmers reported yields better than expected. With corn and tobacco harvest rapidly winding down, many are now turning their attention to soybeans. Currently, 45 percent of the crop is dropping leaves while 8 percent have been harvested. Recent rains should help late planted soybeans in some areas, but it came a little too late for others. In addition to harvesting activities, farmers were busy last week preparing fields for winter wheat seeding and reconditioning pastures. Three percent of the State’s winter wheat acreage has been seeded, mostly for a tobacco cover crop. There were six days considered suitable for field work this past week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 25 percent very short, 40 percent short, 33 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 34 percent very short, 38 percent short, 27 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through September 24, 2000					CROP CONDITION: On September 22, 2000					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	1999	Five Year Avg.	Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Grain Harvested	76	66	93	68	Cotton	3	14	42	38	3
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	45	33	56	42	Soybeans	12	23	36	26	3
Soybeans - Harvested	8	4	12	3	Pastures	19	27	35	17	2
Cotton - Defoliated	70	55	68	N/A						
Cotton - Harvested	25	10	24	13						
Burley - Harvested	90	83	91	84						
Burley - Stripped	7	N/A	2	2						
Dark Air - Harvested	95	91	98	90						
Dark Fire - Harvested	88	83	91	86						
Winter Wheat - Seeded	3	N/A	1	5						

CORN: Harvest is running slightly ahead of the five-year average and rapidly approaching completion. The remaining acreage is mostly concentrated in the middle and eastern portions of the State. Some problems with lodging have been reported recently due to heavy storms and insect damage.

SOYBEANS: Harvest continues to be very limited with 8 percent completed at week’s end. The pace should pick up rapidly over the next few weeks as more of the acreage reaches maturity and growers wrap up corn, cotton, and tobacco harvest. The crop remains in mostly fair-to-good condition.

TOBACCO: With harvest nearly complete, growers are turning their attention to preparing their crop for market. As of Sunday, 7 percent of the burley had been stripped, ahead of both last year and the five-year average pace.

COTTON: Growers made good progress harvesting and spraying defoliants last week before weekend rains forced many from their fields. Harvest is currently on pace with last year and slightly ahead of the five-year average.

PASTURES & HAY: Both pasture and hay fields continue to show slight improvements due to recent moisture, but more is needed. Many are getting a late start on pasture reconditioning due to the dry conditions, but recent rains should help pick up the pace. Fall hay harvest was in full swing in some areas of the State last week.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 09/24/00 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 09/24/00				Current Week	Rain	Current Since	Departure From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	09/24/00	Days	April 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	92	46	73	+4	0.19	1	18.23	-6.49	2581	+280
Bristol	86	46	67	+1	0.95	3	21.48	+0.67	1697	+108
Brownsville_TN	93	48	73	+3	1.68	1	19.19	-5.44	2644	+599
Chattanooga	89	53	72	+2	1.23	4	25.75	+1.82	2598	+384
Clarksville_Sew	91	50	72	+4	1.68	4	27.76	+4.35	2469	+406
Cookeville	86	41	66	-2	0.73	4	24.85	-2.39	1887	+597
Covington	94	48	73	+4	1.23	1	20.41	-3.54	2672	+327
Crossville_AP	84	48	68	+4	1.25	2	26.46	+0.22	1756	+294
Dickson_AG	90	49	70	+2	0.77	3	20.21	-5.49	2081	-66
Dover_1W	89	44	69	+2	1.58	2	25.64	+0.98	2201	+365
Dyersburg	91	52	74	+4	0.50	1	22.23	-1.63	2583	+96
Erwin_1W	86	39	66	+3	0.59	2	24.50	-1.64	1675	-208
Huntingdon_Wate	93	43	71	+3	0.80	1	21.53	-3.66	2028	+74
Jackson_AG	92	49	73	+4	1.25	2	19.51	-5.42	2494	+243
Kingston_AG	88	45	68	+2	1.11	3	23.28	-3.93	2189	+487
Knoxville_AP	88	53	70	+3	1.44	3	25.10	+3.05	2223	+311
Lewisburg	90	40	68	+1	0.36	2	21.47	-4.12	2051	+131
Lexington_TN	92	49	73	+4	1.10	2	21.59	-2.40	2451	+1069
Linden	91	38	71	+3	1.02	3	19.34	-6.33	2211	+276
Martin	91	46	69	+2	0.51	2	23.32	-2.11	2391	+240
Mc_Minnville_Tn	87	47	70	+2	1.67	5	23.47	-1.59	2107	-281
Memphis_AG	93	49	74	+3	1.46	2	18.65	-5.39	2747	-35
Milan	92	39	69	+1	1.02	2	20.49	-5.82	2087	-15
Murfreesboro_5N	87	43	69	+1	0.31	3	26.13	+0.38	2131	-251
Nashville	89	50	72	+3	0.52	2	20.98	-2.07	2502	+237
Newcomb	85	37	64	+0	0.63	4	22.60	-4.31	1722	+346
Oneida	85	38	66	+2	0.34	3	22.89	-4.02	1635	-399
Pikeville	88	45	70	+3	2.14	4	19.58	-4.74	2085	+217
Portland_TN	89	44	69	+3	0.37	2	22.10	-2.51	2149	+268
Pulaski_Water_P	91	43	68	-3	0.68	3	24.25	-0.75	2246	-5
Savannah_6SW	91	49	73	+3	1.05	3	20.90	-5.10	2720	+725
Sparta_TN	85	46	69	+3	1.11	5	29.08	+2.88	2052	+429
Springfield	91	39	69	+2	0.62	3	22.02	-1.69	2048	+167
Springhill	90	46	71	+5	1.13	4	22.26	-3.30	2305	+393
Union_City	91	44	69	+2	0.33	2	22.55	-1.92	2232	+149

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

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